

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 02755 191213Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /052 W
-----191225 112641 /13

O R 191140Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2888
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2755

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, EEC, PO, IT
SUBJ: SOARES VISIT TO ITALY

REF: (A) LONDON 2808, (B) LISBON 1411 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY HAD OPPORTUNITY TO OBTAIN ABBREVIATED RUN-DOWN
ON OFFICIAL TALKS BETWEEN PORTUGUESE PRIME MINISTER SOARES
AND GOI FEB 18 FROM ONE OF ITALIAN PARTICIPANTS.

2. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, MAIN TOPIC OF DISCUSSION WAS PORTUGUESE
MEMBERSHIP IN EC. SOARES MADE LENGTHY PLEA FOR ADMISSION TO EC --
PLEA WHICH WAS ALMOST EXACT REPEAT OF THAT MADE BY SOARES
IN OTHER EC CAPITALS. GOI'S RESPONSE WAS REPORTEDLY SAME AS
THAT GIVEN DURING DISCUSSIONS WITHIN EC, I.E., ITALY WOULD GIVE
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SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION TO PORTUGAL'S REQUEST. THIS WAS
COUPLED, HOWEVER, WITH REMARKS BY AGRICULTURE MINISTER
MARCORA, WHO RECOUNTED DIFFICULTIES FACING ITALY FROM
PROSPECTIVE ENTRY OF NEW MEMBERS INTO EC AND ASSERTED
THAT NO NEW MEMBERS SHOULD BE ACCEPTED UNTIL ITALY HAD
OBTAINED SAME AGRICULTURAL ADVANTAGES AS THOSE PRESENTLY
ENJOYED BY "NORTHERN" EC MEMBERS.

3. SECONDARY TOPIC WAS THAT OF PORTUGUESE ECONOMY, WHERE, AGAIN, SOARES GAVE LENGTHY ACCOUNT OF SITUATION AND PROBLEMS. OUR SOURCE COMMENTED THAT WHILE IT HAD BEEN DIFFICULT TO GRASP DETAILS BECAUSE OF INADEQUACIES OF SOARES' FRENCH, THERE WAS A GOOD GENERAL UNDERSTANDING BECAUSE OF SIMILARITY BETWEEN SITUATION IN PORTUGAL AND ITALY. SOARES MENTIONED ON-GOING NEGOTIATIONS WITH U.S. AND APPARENTLY OTHERS OVER \$1.5 BILLION TRANCED CONSORTIUM LOAN. HE DID NOT DISCUSS THIS IN DETAIL APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF OBVIOUS ITALIAN NON-PARTICIPATION IN SUCH UNDERTAKING. CONTRARY TO IMPLICATION AT END PARA 2 REF A, HOWEVER, SOURCE POINTED OUT THAT SOARES MADE IT CLEAR HE WAS COUNTING ON LOAN AND THAT HE HOPED NEGOTIATIONS WOULD SOON BE SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED.BEAUDRY

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 19-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, PO, IT, EEC, (SOARES, MARIO ALBERTO NOBRE LOPEZ)
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